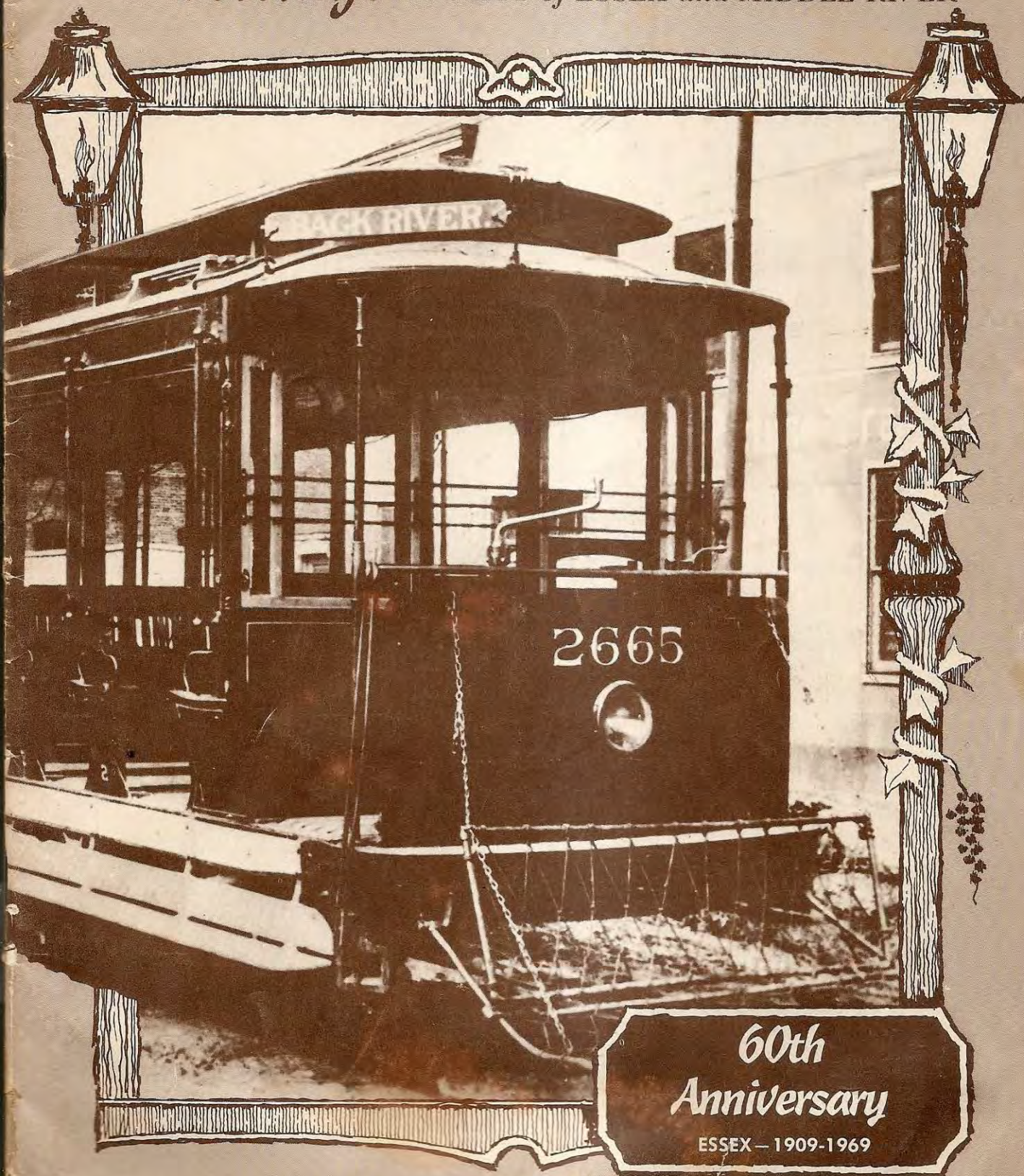


THE *Heritage* SOCIETY of ESSEX and MIDDLE RIVER



60th
Anniversary

ESSEX — 1909-1969

The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River



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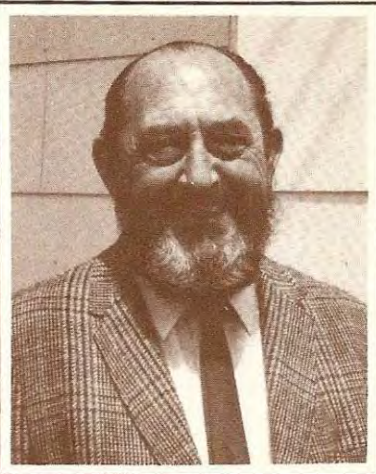
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ESSEX

THE *Heritage* SOCIETY of ESSEX and MIDDLE RIVER
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May 1, 1969

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, which is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Essex Recreation & Parks Council, held its first meeting on September 26, 1968. This meeting was attended by seven adults and my two children. As of this writing, we have 105 members, ranging in age from 9 to 80. Our meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. in the Essex Elementary School and you are cordially invited to attend.

Our purpose is to gather, in one place, information and artifacts connected with our past and present. We hope to eventually find a permanent place where these can be on public display.

This publication contains some of the information and pictures we have collected. Due to limited space, we couldn't print all the stories, etc. However, we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to our Society. We also appreciate the newspapers allowing us to reprint some of their articles concerning this section.

The history on the churches is, no doubt, more accurate as to dates since the churches usually kept a written history. The articles, for the most part, are from the memories of the writers.

We hope you will enjoy this magazine and ask that you patronize the advertisers without whose help we could not have had it published.

Sincerely,

Alex Baumgartner
Alex Baumgartner
President



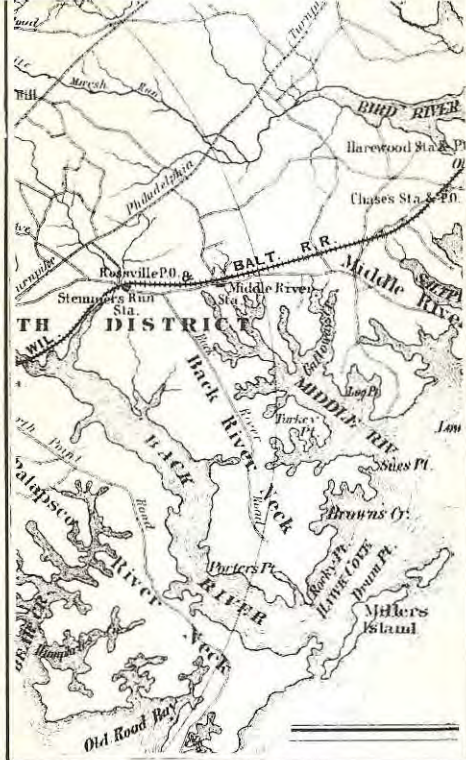
EARLY

IN 1608, Captain John Smith explored and mapped the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Lord Baltimore visited Virginia in 1628 and, in all probability, explored this area, since he later obtained a grant on it.

St. Mary's was settled in 1634 and Baltimore County was established in 1659. At that time, the area covered by Baltimore County included what is now Carroll and Harford Counties and large parts of Anne Arundel, Howard and Frederick Counties.

There were quite a few families living in Baltimore County in 1659. One was that of Detmar and Reuska Stansbury (Standsbury, Stansborough, Stemborough) and their small son, Tobias, who arrived as immigrants in 1658.¹ At present, we do not know the date of the patent granted the Stansburys nor exactly where the ground was located. We do know there were Stansburys in the Patapsco Neck and Back River Neck sections during the middle and late 1600's. We also know that Tobias, son of Detmar and Reuska Stansbury, obtained a patent on 100 acres of ground known as POPLAR NECK in 1670, when he was just 17 years of age.

A 3,000 acre patent was granted Thomas Lytfoot on October 26, 1686 and on November 7, 1686 (12 days later), 200 of these acres were surveyed by a Thomas Scudamore for Tobias Stansbury, although this patent was not recorded until 1744. These 200 acres were known as WESTWOOD and, according to



a photostat of the patent in our possession, it was located between the "East side of Middle River and the West side of said river known as North East Branch". This wording is confusing and could be taken two ways, (1) that the ground between Middle River and the North East Branch (now Essex) was then known as WESTWOOD; and (2) that the North East Branch was a branch of "said river", that is Middle River", since it is the only river mentioned. This, we know, is incorrect, since it is a branch of Back River. It is possible the deed wrongly indicated Middle River and the land actually laid between the East side of Back River and the West side of North East Branch, or the section now known as Chesaco Park. This seems to be borne out

HISTORY

by another patent obtained by Luke Stansbury, son of Tobias, which indicates WESTWOOD was located at the "head of Back River and West side of North East Branch".

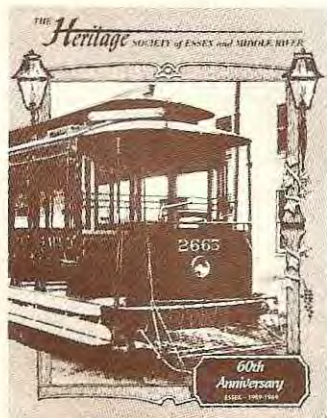
In addition to WESTWOOD, Luke Stansbury obtained patents on the sections known as LOTT, FOREST, SAMSONS ANGLES, SAMSONS ADDITION, ADDITION TO WESTWOOD, and others.

In the Back River Neck section, patents were obtained by members of the Stansbury families on BAL-LESTONES, STANSBURYS CLAIM, STANSBURYS INHERITANCE, STRIFE and a great many others.

In 1865, the home of Carville S. Stansbury, located in Back River Neck, burned. The mansion had been in his family around 200 years, which dates it to approximately 1665.²

A great deal of time and research is required in tracing old records, as most are located in Annapolis and St. Mary's. However, as time goes on, we intend to delve more deeply into the history of the Stansbury family which included at least two Generals, General Tobias Stansbury and General John E. Stansbury; a minister, Rev. Tobias Stansbury, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on whose farm, located in Patapsco Neck, General Ross was killed in the War of 1812; and Elijah Stansbury, Mayor of Baltimore City.

1. The Jeffersonian, Sept. 13, 1930
2. Scharf's - History of Baltimore City and County



60th Anniversary Publication

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Alex Bumgartner President
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This publication on the 60th Anniversary of the Essex Area, reflects the Heritage of the community. This first souvenir publication would make an excellent gift to friends and relatives, and to sons and husbands in the service of our country, to acquaint them with our small contribution to the Heritage of our country.

PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE MARTINAK



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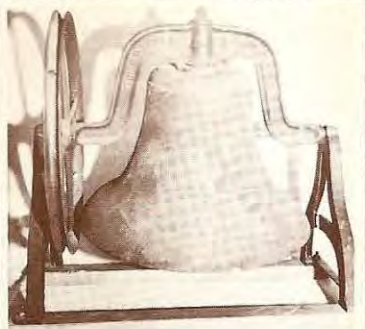


PHOTO COURTESY DEANGELIS STUDIO



3



4

PHOTO COURTESY MRS. VIRGINIA BORSOS

PHOTO COURTESY LOTTIE WOOD

PHOTO REMEMBRANCES

1. Bell from Vigilant Fire Department Tower (1917). 2. Northeast corner of Mace and Eastern Avenues (1909). 3. First residence built in Essex by Mr. & Mrs. J. Schuster (1909). 4. Ford Agency in Essex (1929). 5. Soapbox Race (1947). 6. Vigilant Fire Department (1917). 7. Essex A. C. Baseball Team (19). 8. Confection store corner Eastern Avenue and Riverside Drive (19). 9. Vigilant Fire Department (19). 10. Looking West on Eastern Ave. (1910).



5

PHOTO COURTESY MRS. LAURA HENSLER

PHOTO COURTESY DEANGELIS STUDIO



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PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE MARTINAK



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PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE MARTINAK



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PHOTO COURTESY DEANGELIS STUDIO

ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE FIRST ESSEX School was opened in January 1913 with 28 pupils. The building, located at the corner of Eastern and Taylor Avenues, was originally built as a sample house and was used as a Real Estate office.

Miss Branford Gist, principal, arranged with the Essex Methodist Church, then located on the opposite corner of Eastern and Taylor Avenues, to rent their basement in 1915 to accommodate more children.

In 1918, the school was relocated in the portable schools at Dorsey and Woodward Drive.

By 1925, the portables were so crowded, the new school was opened at Mace and Franklin Avenues. An addition was added to this school in 1942.

PHOTO COURTESY DE ANGELIS STUDIO



January 1913, this building became 1st School with 28 pupils.

DONATED BY BESSIE VRANY MUENZING



First grade at Essex School—1918—Teacher, Mrs. Smith

This aerial photo of Essex was taken in 1927 under the direction of the Essex School P.T.A. Of particular interest are (1) First grocery store built in 1910, (2) Mace Ave, (3) Essex Elem. School built in 1925 (4) First Home built in 1909, (5) Essex Methodist Church, (6) Sample house which became first school in 1913, (7) Eastern Avenue and (8) St. John's Lutheran Church.

PHOTO COURTESY DE ANGELIS STUDIO





Middle River was a "wilderness of farms and swamps" when in 1892 William Louis Smith (in the inset) built there the hotel that is shown above. Farmers, fishermen and a traveling magic lantern show were patrons.

Middle River As A 5-Family 'Town'

By Mrs. Edith Smith Asher

(Reprinted from the Sunday Sun—November 28, 1954)

MIDDLE RIVER'S families—and houses—could be counted on one hand back in 1892.

The family names were Jeffers, Hughes, Kimmel, Heldorfer and Smith.

The widow Kimmel and her son made up the third family; they operated a tiny grocery two blocks south of the station but on the west side of the tracks. The George Heldorfers kept a saloon at what is now the corner of Eastern avenue road and Harrison boulevard. And my parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Louis Smith, operated the only hotel in "town."

The Smith Hotel was situated on the west side of the tracks, almost directly across from the station. My father built it in the Spring of '92. A wounded Civil War veteran who had been a hotel keeper in Anne Arundel county, he'd seen a real-estate advertisement proclaiming that a vast development to be called Middleton would be built in the Middle River area.

My mother scoffed. Who'd want to build anything in that wilderness of farms and swamps? My father said that even if no development

came through he'd have plenty of business. He argued that Middle River was a great fishing hole, and if there was a good hotel there, he could get customers in droves.

Middleton did not materialize. But my father's hunch was a good one. On week ends during fishing season, every bed in the seven hotel rooms was occupied—and extra beds were put up. The bar was crowded and so was the dining room, where, for 50 cents, the anglers got huge chicken dinners.

Although there was nothing in the neighborhood of Middle River except farms—Stemmers Run and Bengies were even smaller than our town, and Essex didn't exist—there was plenty of business during the week. Farmers, after doing business at the post office which was operated by my father in the hotel, came into the bar. Salesmen would stop in for a night. A couple of times some people who operated a traveling magic-lantern show were guests. For some years county Republicans held rallies at the hotel, too.

And I recall that when telephone lines were going through around the turn of the century, we put up

three dozen workers for one winter at \$6 per week per man. At noon, I recall, my father carried wash boilers of soup and coffee and boxes of sandwiches out to their work site.

I'm glad I grew up in Middle River. Isolated as it was, there was plenty to do. There was fishing and crabbing and swimming in the clear waters of the river itself. There were husking bees on the Wilkinson, Edwards and Hughes farms, all of them on the present Martin land; I can still taste the big farm suppers and hear the music of the fiddles as the young people danced.

We learned our ABC's at Orem's School, the one-room public school that was a mile's walk from home between Middle River and Stemmers Run. Miss Sarah Pielert was the teacher there. One of my classmates and close friends, Doris Milling, is a prominent citizen in the town today. Now she's Mrs. Doris Gross, the Middle River librarian.

By the time the new century arrived Middle River was growing—although why, I can't say. I suppose there were a dozen new residents by 1900, including the community's beloved doctor for so many years, Dr. Harrison. He had the first telephone in town, I remember. Harrison boulevard, is named for him.

After 1900 I commuted to town every day to study at the State Normal School, then located at Carrollton and Lafayette avenues. I took the train; my father wouldn't allow me to take the streetcar which paralleled Eastern avenue, then a shell road. He didn't like the streetcar because it passed by Hollywood Park, an amusement center at the north end of the Back River bridge. He didn't like it for several reasons, one of which was that he had actually seen a woman chewing gum there!

When I graduated in 1904 I began a thirteen-year tour as the teacher at the public school at Bengies. It was in 1917 that I moved with my mother into the city. Dad had died in 1911, but she had kept on with the hotel. Then in 1917 the railroad bought it so a siding could be put in on its site. That never happened. Later, the railroad sold the site for houses that are now surrounded by a thriving community.

Historical Sketch of BACK RIVER METHODIST CHURCH

Information received from Mrs. Herbert Dieckman

THE RESIDENTS of Back River Neck, most of whom were farmers, had no place to worship nearer than Orem's M.E. Church, which was about eight miles away. Since this was the era of the horse and buggy, it was considered quite a long drive. About the year 1870, the residents with some aid from the county built a school house on the site of the present Back River Neck School. This was also used as a place of worship.

About 1882, efforts to begin services again were successful and through the cooperation and leadership of Rev. W. G. Hedges, pastor of the Great Falls Circuit of the M.E. Church, and the junior pastor, Rev. Charles Bryan, services were held regularly every two weeks, with the pastor and junior pastor alternating.

The work continued to grow in interest, although few in number. Then a committee was formed under the leadership of the pastor to plan for a building in which to worship.

The building was erected by Mr. John Shaffer with the assistance of Mr. Hax, a carpenter. Before the framing was finished, the farmers went to Baltimore on March 7, 1888 and hauled all the necessary millwork from W. D. Gill. This included doors, frames, windows, flooring, wainscoting, etc. The wainscoting was used instead of plaster for the walls and ceiling. The equipment and furnishings of the new building consisted of kerosene lamps for lighting, a large coal or wood burning stove for heating, window shades were hung at all windows, a raised platform with lectern and altar rail, an organ and sufficient pews for the auditorium.

The church was dedicated August 12, 1888. The name selected was Back River M.E. Church and was officially connected with and served by the ministers of the Great Falls Circuit. This section automatically admitted it to the Baltimore Conference of the M.E. Church. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. William Herbert of Caroline St. M.E. Church, Baltimore. His subject was taken from Psalm 122 and part

SECOND CHURCH—1926. Actually the first church was raised and a room built under it.



PHOTO DONATED BY MRS. EMMA DUNHAM



PHOTO DONATED BY MRS. EMMA DUNHAM

BACK RIVER METHODIST CHURCH—1888

of the sixth verse: "They shall prosper that love Thee".

The Sunday School grew too large for the building and it became evident that another room must be added. It was decided to raise the building and build a room under it. This necessitated jacking the building high enough to give head room, then enclosing the room with a concrete block foundation. Mr. John Wright agreed to do the work and as a result, a large well-lighted room was available.

On Sunday morning, February 26, 1928, everyone was horrified to see the church building on fire. In one hour's time, nothing remained but a smouldering mass of ashes. A few chairs were salvaged but all else was a total loss.

Expressions of sympathy came from many sources, together with immediate offers of assistance to finance a new and better building. The first offer received was from Mrs. Frederick Josenhans to use her hall as a place of worship until the new building was ready. The new building was completed and dedicated in September 1928. By 1938 additional room was needed and a room was added to the back of the present building.

In 1939, the name was changed to Back River Methodist Church, as a result of the uniting of three branches of Methodism.

The Back River Church differs somewhat from the average church because the attendance increases during the summer season. Many shore residents desire to attend church and there is always a spirit of welcome here.

THIRD and CURRENT CHURCH—Built and dedicated in September 1928.



PHOTO DONATED BY MRS. EMMA DUNHAM

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BACK RIVER NECK

By Mrs. Janet Reeling—(former teacher at Mars Estates)

MANY YEARS AGO, the inhabitants of our community were leathery, redskinned men who were known as "Tillers of the soil". These indians, the Yacomicos, Nanticokes, and Mat-tawas, were peaceful due, mainly, to the humane laws of the Calverts.

In our early days, areas were known as parishes. A parish was divided into "hundreds" and once a year a levy tax list was made of the taxable residents of each hundred. Taxable residents were all free residents who owned fifty acres of land or a "visible estate" of not less than forty pounds. These tax-payers were called upon by the sheriff to appear at the courthouse to choose delegates to the General Assembly.

There were no formal churches or schools. The circuit rider would come as often as possible and prayer meetings were held in river cabins. By 1774, the population had grown so extensively, that a church was needed. Land was deeded and the first Methodist Church in this country was founded on Orem's Road. Its minister, Francis Asbury, became our first bishop.

Along the beautiful shores of Back River was found Paradise Farm belonging to E. Taylor. The old colonial farmhouse was surrounded by rolling countryside. In 1860-1, it was rented to Mr. Tutch-ton.

Ten years after Cove Point opened, part of the land was sold for St. Stephens African Methodist Episcopal Church which was erected on the corner of Back River Neck Road and Old Eastern Avenue. The church and cemetery still stand.

The post office was located at the Stemmers Run Station of the Pennsylvania, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. The population was approximately 350. The Locust Grove Iron Furnace, which provided arms for the war, managed to employ about 100 hands. A store owned by the Walters Brothers was opened across from the church and the post office was moved there.

The Philadelphia Road is one of the oldest highways into the city. It was an indian trail which was surveyed in 1787 by John Eager Howard. It was called the Old Post Road and mail was carried over it by stages between Washington and New York. Many visitors travelled to Washington by stagecoach and General Washington often rode to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. This road was chosen because it was the shortest route between Philadelphia and Baltimore with fewer dangerous places and hills to mount. It has also been called the Great Eastern. Along this route weary travellers stopping at an inn or tavern would read a bill of fare such as:

Tavern Rates	
FIXED BY THE COURT ON OLD POST ROAD	
Hot Dinner with beer or cider—	2 shillings
Cold Dinner with beer or cider—	1 shilling, 6 pence
Breakfast or supper with green tea	1 shilling, 6 pence

Farther out on these roads are many pleasant farms and country residences. The quality of the soil lends itself to the cultivation of vegetables and fruits (truck farming). The roads were laid with oyster shells which, pulverizing under the heels of vehicles and hoofs of horses, formed a bed of unsurpassed smoothness and solidity.

The shell road led from the city to Back River through charming scenery at the heads of inlets of the bay. There are numerous public resorts and the drive is very popular with the people of the city.

In 1888, because of the growth of population, Back River Methodist Church was built.

In 1895, during the period called the "Gay Nineties", the trolley line from the city was extended to Back River Bridge. Hollywood Park, sort of an oasis at the end of the car line, was built for local recreation and picnics.

In 1907, the store on the corner of Back River Neck Road and Old Eastern Avenue was sold to Frederick Josenhans, an outsider from the city. His official trademark became "The Busy Corner—The Beehive of Industry". To this day, this area is known as "Josenhans' Corner". Soon a building was constructed which served as a livery stable while upstairs was a community hall in which were held social and political meetings, and a dance studio called the Rossville Academy. The post office at this time was located at Rossville.

This was known as the horse and buggy day. A popular vehicle of this time was the Phaeton Wagon which was used to carry people from the trolley line, which was extended to Middle River, to the pleasure shores. With the advent of automobiles, gasoline tanks were added to the store and a jitney* bus replaced the Phaeton Wagon (*Jit means nickel—the fare was five cents). A woman, Lil Klima, brought the first ones to Baltimore and became known as "Jitney Lil".

The site upon which Mars Estates School now stands was once an ice pond belonging to the Homberg family, for whom its street was named.

Soon there was need of a larger school so, in 1908, a "new" two-room schoolhouse was opened. There was one teacher for eight classes, approximately fifty children. Attendance at school was seasonal. During planting and harvesting season, the children were needed at home. In wintertime, the roads were impassable. Often the children walked to school, their feet wrapped in heavy sacks. Before and after school, boys would deliver papers and mail over the ice on skates.

For entertainment, the young people would travel to different houses for parties, dancing to bands, the gramophone or the player piano.



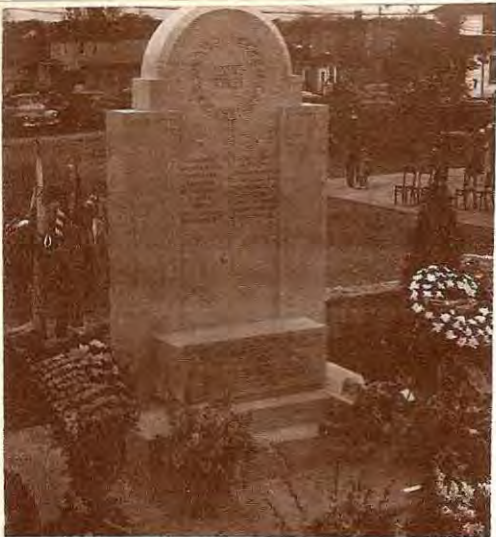


PHOTO BY DICK CLAYTON

ESSEX WAR MEMORIAL—MAY 2, 1948

ESSEX WAR MEMORIAL

THE ESSEX WAR MEMORIAL was dedicated on Sunday, May 2, 1948, in memory of 18 Essex boys who were killed in World War II. These boys were: Adam Amend; Robert S. Dean; Joseph H. Dotterweich; C. Hessenaur; Melvin H. Lindsay; Theodore P. Merling; William H. Ritter, Jr.; Andrew J. Wernsdorfer; Frank J. Rutowski; Robert R. Bennett, Jr.; George C. Dehne; J. Griffith, George E. Krueger; Walter Lamka; Earl E. Martin; Henry H. Schwinn; William Weiderman and Joseph C. Welker.

The Barre, Vt. granite memorial, "ALTAR OF FREEDOM", designed and executed by Frank E. Hammaker of Towson, is 14 feet high and 8 feet across its base. Within the cornerstone is a copper box containing a scroll bearing the names of over 800 Essex Veterans, a bible and other mementos. It is erected on a plot of ground leased from the Young Men's Democratic Club for 1c for a period of "99 years plus 99 years".

Donations for the memorial and an Endowment Fund for maintenance were raised by the Essex Memorial Assn., Inc., formed in 1946 under the leadership of Neeley Hurley. Workers on the fund raising were: Mrs. Elizabeth Crusse; Mr. & Mrs. Louis Engle; Mr. William S. George; Mrs. Lillian Hughes; Mr. Neeley Hurley;

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Keiser; Mr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Lindsay; Mr. John Roth and Mrs. Anna Walters.

Archie K. Price was chairman of the parade which preceded the dedication. Some of the participants in the parade, which began at the east end of Back River Bridge and disbanded at Stuart Street, were: State and County Motorcycle Police; The U. S. Marine Band; The 115th Inf. Reg. H.Q. Company of the Maryland National Guard from Towson; The 327th Army Band, Color Guard and Firing Squad from Edgewood Chemical Arsenal; The American Legion Band; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Band; the 29th Drum & Bugle Corp. sponsored by

mander Veterans Foreign Wars; John McGuire, Judge Advocate-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel CWV Post 706 and William J. DeWitt, Commander-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel CWV. The Invocation was given by Rev. Leo Techlenberg of St. Johns Lutheran Church; the Dedictory Prayer by Rev. John Schauer of Zion Evan. Lutheran Church and the Dedictory address by William C. Wright, State Chaplain of the Veterans Foreign Wars.

The Memorial Service was read by Rev. John Velasco of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church. As Master of Ceremonies J. William McAvoy called out the 18 names on the Memorial, 18 girls from the

Essex Memorial VFW Post 2621; fire trucks from Arbutus, Rosedale, Middleborough and Rockaway Beach, as well as numerous other civic groups.

Junior Forest Rangers George E. Larrimore (than 18) and Frank A. Baltusis (then 15) were Honor Guards on each side of the Memorial during the ceremonies, which were broadcast over Station WSID, Essex.

Master of Ceremonies was J. William McAvoy and speakers were Charles Buscher, State Com-

Essex Youth Center, dressed in white, one by one placed a long-stemmed carnation at the base of the monument. Three volleys were fired by a squad of soldiers from the Maryland Military District and the Benediction was given by Rev. Francis Wagner, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Each year, on Memorial Day, services are held here by the various Veterans organizations. Flowers are placed throughout the year by Connelly's and Brudzinski's Funeral Homes.

DEDICATION—ESSEX WAR MEMORIAL—MAY 2, 1948: Mr. Harry Feldner, of Franklin Avenue-Essex, donated this picture to the Heritage Society. He took it from the roof of his father-in-law's hardware store (Milke's). Mr. Feldner works for the News-American and was responsible for the news items on the Essex War Memorial which appeared in the paper at that time.

PHOTO BY HARRY FELDNER





OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

THE RECORDS OF Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church begin with the Baptism of Frances Victoria Dougherty the daughter of Edward Dougherty and Florence Hawkins on November 14, 1893. The Baptism was administered by Father Carroll W. Currier who came to the new mission in Middle River from Saint Joseph's, Fullerton, Maryland each Sunday. The first wedding performed in the newly founded parish was that of Charles Mohr and Maria Haut on February 6, 1894.

The parish was mainly composed of German stock. The second pastor was Father George Tragesser who was followed by Father Francis Wunnenberg. The fourth Pastor

was Father Francis Flanigan. During these years the parish grew very slowly and was still mainly rural in nature.

Father John Connelly was the fifth Pastor. He was followed by a man who was to have a major part in molding the parish into a large self supporting suburban Parish. This man was Monsignor Nicholas Jaselli. The period of his Pastorate covers a period from 1919 to 1949. It was during his pastorate that the small wooden church which stood where the present hedges and lawn are, was torn down and the corner stone of the lower church and bell tower was laid on October 3, 1920. The present upper church was added in 1937.

In 1925 the first section of the Parish Elementary School was built containing four classrooms and an auditorium. The first class graduated in 1927. Sister Philomena was the principal. The class was composed of six boys and five girls: Earl Hughes, Edward Kedjeski, Walter Grebe, William Kraft, John Pfeiffer, Francis Jones, Thelma Helldorfer, Catherine McVey, Amelia Freidel, Katherine Armsworthy, and Anna Kroning (Sister Francis Joseph O.S.F.) The second principal of the school was Sister Ludolphus.

The Pastorate of Monsignor Jaselli was followed by that of Monsignor C. Carroll Kerr who began the construction of the long awaited High School in 1958. The school received its first class of students in September 1959 of 85 Freshmen. There were two teachers Sister Leonita, Principal and Sister Carmel Joseph. Monsignor Kerr died before he ever saw the build-

ing which he planned in use. Final arrangements were made by the new Pastor Father John Murphy who added the gymnasium in 1962. In June of 1963 Father John Murphy was elevated to the title of "Rt. Rev. Monsignor."

The Elementary School now comprises three sections with a student enrollment of 757. There are twelve sisters and nine lay teachers. Recent Principals have been Sister Alma Regina, Sister Agnes Eileen, Sister Teresiana, and the present principal Sister Alma.

The High School graduated its first class in 1963. The present enrollment is 275 representing at least 30 different parishes. There are six sister and four lay teachers.

The parish societies are the Holy Name, Sodality, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Catholic Youth Organization, Altar Boys, Adult and Boys Choirs, Ushers, Lectors, and the newly organized Parish Council.


The present Pastor is Monsignor John J. Murphy, his Associates are Father Robert Keller and Father Thomas Bevan.



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Ruins Of Essex Fire Sifted For Cause

Baltimore county fire today began probing the cause of an Essex shopping center blaze.

FLAWS CITED IN FIRE RAZED STRUCTURE

No Law Violation Seen In Failure To Meet Building Code

Baltimore county officials yesterday said the Essex shopping center was destroyed by fire.

AUGUST 3-4, 1957

ESSEX FIRE

COURTESY OF SUN NEWSPAPERS

Baltimore county fire official today began probing the ruins of an Essex shopping center, seeking the cause of a blaze that gutted seven business firms and a branch bank and inflicted damage estimated at more than \$1,000,000.

The ten-alarm blaze was discovered Saturday night, less than an hour after some of the firms had closed for the weekend, and raged out of control for about six hours.

Firefighters were still on duty at the scene today, guarding against any fresh outbreak of flames among the debris. The flames had burned through the roofs of all but a supermarket on the east end of the center, on the south side of the 500 block Eastern boulevard.

Roland Piel, Baltimore county building engineer, today began an inspection of the shopping center to determine whether all of the buildings would have to be razed.

Steel support girders were twisted out of shape by the heat, and walls had collapsed inward.

Street-level floors that burned through, dropped displays into the basements of the buildings owned by the realty firm.

Firemen said the center and contents of the various stores were a total loss.

Police unofficially put the amount of cash in the bank at \$250,000, but officials of the Fidelity-Baltimore National Bank said no estimate would be made public.

William B. Alexander, vice-president of the bank, said he was confident the money was safe,

LOSS IN FIRE PUT AT OVER \$1,000,000

Building And Goods Of 7 Firms Destroyed In Essex

Fireman still poured water late yesterday into the shaky bulk of a shopping center in flames which raced

since the vault has a fire door and is embedded in concrete.

Besides the branch bank, the center contained a Read's drugstore, the Ben Franklin variety store, Acme and A.&P. supermarkets, Arnold's Men's and Women's Shops, a furniture and bedding storage warehouse used by the Car-Mor Company, and a business office of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company beneath the drugstore.

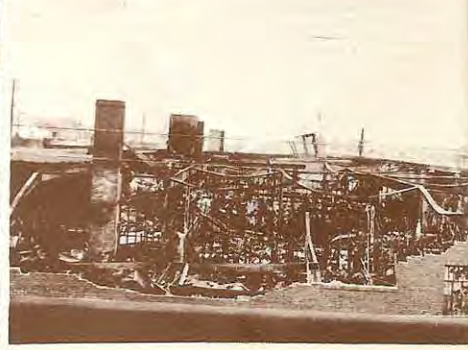
Deputy Chief F. Lee Cockey, of the Baltimore county Fire Department, said the blaze apparently originated in the middle of the shopping center in the Car-Mor Company warehouse beneath the Arnold stores, then spread up and outward to envelop the entire block within an hour.

Flames leaped 100 feet skyward at the height of the blaze, flying embers dropped over a wide area, but no other fires were started.

All available traffic police in the county were rushed to the Essex area to cope with the traffic snarl that developed. They closed Eastern boulevard from Mace avenue on the west to Marlyn avenue on the east to traffic until yesterday afternoon.

The curious driving to the area to see the ruins added to the heavy traffic going to the water-front resorts and at times vehicles were backed up two abreast for more than a mile westward.

Six Baltimore county policemen, aided by four auxiliary policemen, were detailed to guard the ruins today.



ESSEX

Methodist Church

founded 1913

DURING JUNE 1913, the people of Essex decided they wanted a Methodist Church. They rented a tent and a vacant lot and a three weeks' revival was held. Twelve persons were received as members of the New Organization, and from these was elected the first Board of Trustees: J. C. Tutchtton, Samuel T. Briggs, Frank F. Foulke, John A. Zimmerman, John A. Hughes, John R. Campbell and Charles R. Reidt, Sr.

Three lots were donated to this worthy cause by the Essex Realty Co. on the corner of Eastern and Taylor Avenues. With \$25.00 in the treasury, donated by five of the Trustees, and faith in God, work on the Church was begun. The cornerstone was laid August 3, 1913. Dr. J. St. Clair Neal, the District Superintendent, had charge of the services and on Sunday afternoon, January 18, 1914, a completed church was dedicated to the service of God. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Don S. Colt, Pastor of Madison Square Methodist Church, Baltimore, Md.

The period from July 1932 could correctly be called the greatest period of advancement and achievement of this Church. With the support and fine cooperation of the members and all Church organizations, fine progress has been made.

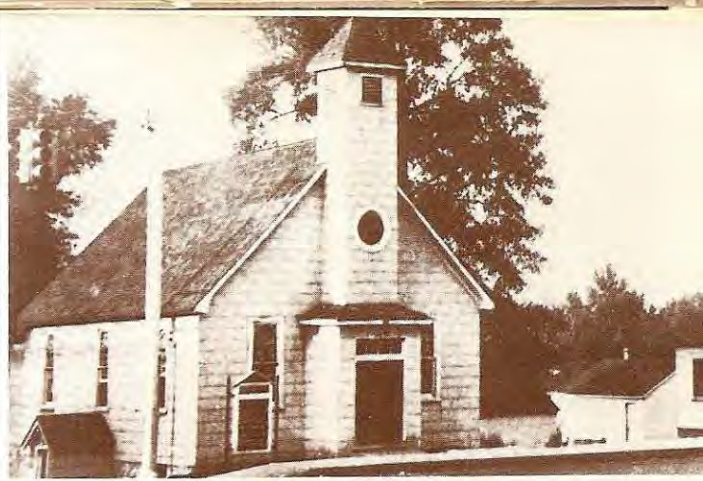
In 1941, the parsonage was built next to the church. It was financed by donations and free-will offerings. During the 40's, the little church began to fast outgrow the facilities on Eastern Avenue and its officials began to discuss the advisability of enlarging the church. At about this same time, Eastern Avenue was commercialized and dual lanes were constructed. A decision was then made to sell the three lots belonging to the church and purchase a new site at Maryland Avenue and Woodward Drive. The parsonage was moved from Eastern Avenue to its present location, on the Northeast corner of Maryland Avenue opposite the church. It was much less expensive to move the old building than to construct a new one.

The ceremony of breaking ground for the new church building took place on Sunday afternoon, February 3, 1946 at 3:00 P.M.

The service was opened by the reading of the 121st Psalm by the pastor, Rev. Warren E. Reese, which was followed by the singing of the hymn "The Church's One Foundation".

The first shovelful of earth was lifted by Mrs. Frank Foulke, the oldest member of the congregation. She was followed by Mr. and Mrs. John Bollack, the next oldest in point of membership. The fourth shovelful of earth was lifted by Mr. William Tutchtton, representing the Tutchtton family, a group which played a prominent part in the early church history.

This day will live long in the memories of those who have worked these many years to give the people of Essex a church edifice that will not only be a thing of beauty but a factor in the life of the community.



Essex Methodist Church—1913

In February 1946, while awaiting the construction of the new building, the church began holding its services in what was formerly used by the government as a Ration Board. During one of Mr. Reese's first sermons in the Ration Board location, he told the congregation he understood many people had lost their religion in this very room during its former use and hoped now they would also find their religion there.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946. Dr. Fred C. Reynolds, the District Superintendent, was the speaker for the occasion. At last the congregation had made its pilgrimage through the wilderness and into the promised land. On November 3, 1946, the basement of the new church was used for worship services for the first time.

On July 18, 1948, the new sanctuary was put to use and Dr. Charles Phillips, Dist. Supt., conducted the Consecration Service on August 1, 1948.

Rev. Arthur L. Hunter, was appointed to the church in February 1962. Many improvements were made through his guidance. At his suggestion, a stained glass chancel window was installed and organ chimes were purchased. During the 11 o'clock service on December 9, 1962, the window was dedicated in honor of former pastor Warren E. Reese. The chimes were dedicated in honor of Mrs. Reese, who had worked faithfully with her husband the many years they served Essex Methodist Church.

On the 50th Anniversary, the church membership was 1,125 and 875 were enrolled in the Sunday School.

Essex Methodist Church—1969



STEMMER HOUSE

From 300th Anniversary Book of Baltimore County
1659-1959
County Directories of Maryland, Inc.

BETWEEN THE YEARS 1726 and 1730, John England of the Principio Co. of Cecil County, an association of British Iron-Masters, merchants and capitalists, gave Captain Augustine Washington (father of George Washington) an interest in the Principio Co. in return for the right to operate the Washington Iron Ore Mines in Stafford County, Virginia.

In 1734, a Colonel Sheredine erected a furnace on the Kingsbury Lands at the head of Back River. This was purchased by the Principio Co. around 1744. A mansion was built on Race Road, probably by the Principio Co. for Mr. Washington, to be used as a stop-over house.

Dr. Charles Carroll of Annapolis sold his Lancashire Furnace and 8,200 acres of ground to the Principio Co. in 1751. The ground was located between Marsh River, Back River and Middle River and the purchase was signed by Lawrence Washington, son of Capt. Augustine Washington and half-brother of George Washington.

Lawrence Washington died in 1752, willing his brother, Augustine II, his stock interest and estate in the Principio, Accokeek, Kingsbury, Lancashire and North East Iron Works in Virginia and Maryland. Augustine II and his half-brother, George Washing-

ton, were active in the mining business, and it is claimed they used this house many times on their inspection tours of the iron furnaces on Back River.

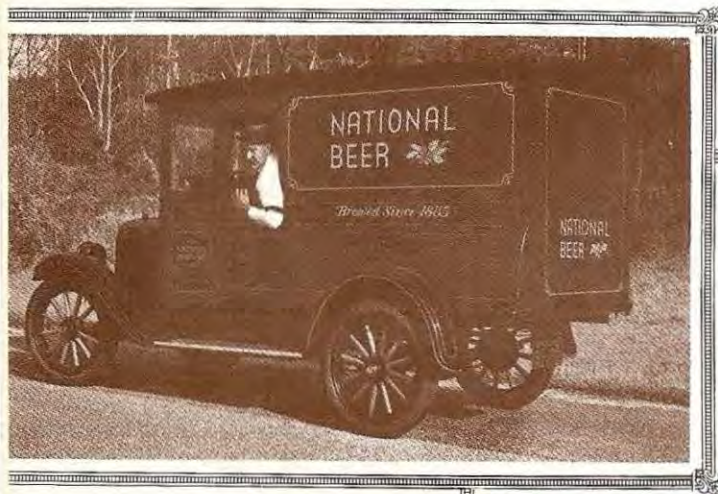
In 1780, the Maryland General Assembly seized and confiscated all British property in the State, including that of the Principio Co. The confiscation act declared "that a certain Mr. Washington, a subject of Virginia, is entitled one-twelfth (1/12) part thereof,--".

The State sold a 750 acre tract known as "Buck's Range" to Job Garretson. In 1793, Mr. Garretson sold this acreage to Capt. Ullrich B. Stammer.

Stemmers Run took its name from Capt. Stammer or Stemmer, and the house became known as the Stemmer House. Capt. Stemmer was called "The Merchant Prince" although it was never proved he was actually a pirate who had, on occasion, sailed with Blackbeard. Stemmers Run, at that time, was a navigable river, and it is believed Capt. Stemmer used it to hide his ship from the authorities.

The house and ground remained in the Stemmer family until 1850 when it was sold to Robert Howard, an ironmaster who worked the iron forges.

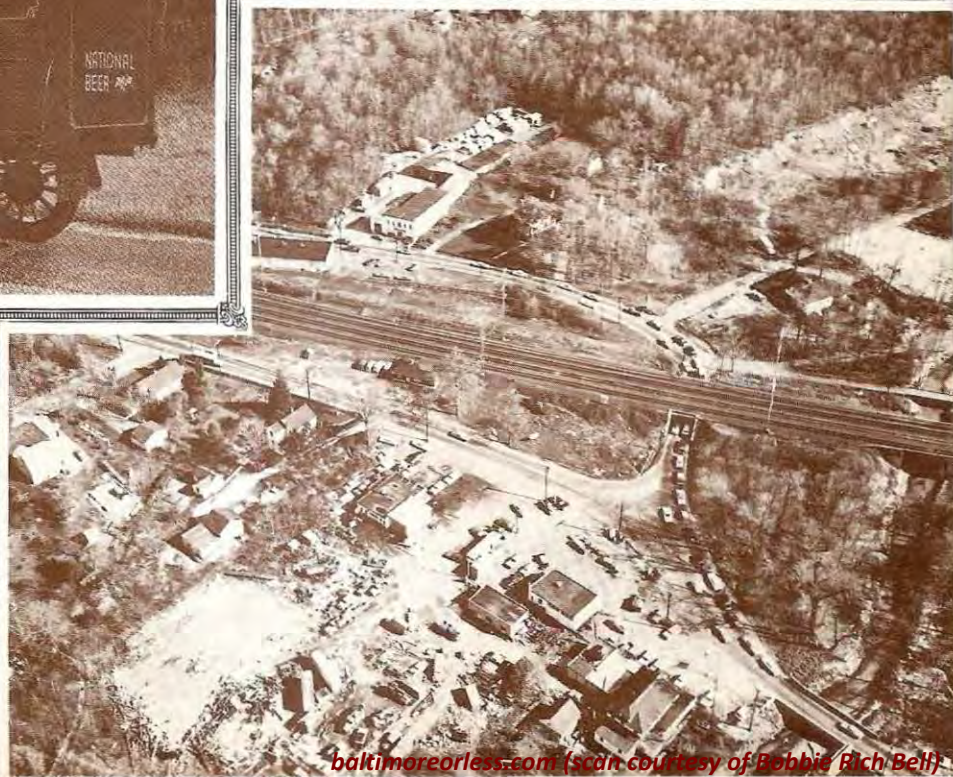
The house fell into disrepair in the early 1900's and was purchased in 1929 by Mrs. Austin McLanahan, who had it dismantled, brick-by-brick, and rebuilt on Caves Road in Owings Mills.



National Beer's Antique Truck—This 1924 Chevrolet truck has been restored by The National Brewing Co. In perfect operating condition it is used regularly in Parades, Promotions and for delivery of National Brewing Co. products. Specifications: 1924 Chevrolet, 4 Cylinder, 18 Horsepower.

At right: aerial photo courtesy of Walsh Lumber Co., looking south. Golden Ring Road is in lower right hand corner showing traffic going through Penna. R.R. underpass into Stemmers Run Road. Walsh Lumber Co. is pictured at top left. The "Locust Grove" Ore Mine was located 1/4 mile north of the railroad station (roughly in the lower left corner of picture). Mine was operated between the years 1845-1885.

PHOTO COURTESY WALSH LUMBER CO.



First Special Police Officer

By Carrie Wood Lawton

MY FATHER, James W. Wood, was born in 1847, and was the first special police officer in this section of Baltimore County. He was appointed about 1898-1899 and continued until his death in 1919. His territory covered White Marsh, Cowenton, Chase, Bengies, Middle River, Essex, Rosedale and Golden Ring to Hollywood Park, where he was stationed nearly every day in the summer.



Mrs. Millie Wood



Mr. James Wood

We lived at Chase and Bengies and my father drove a horse and buggy to Middle River or to Josenhan's where he stabled it until time to return home. The street cars took him and his prisoners to the jail. If it was a long trip, he sometimes stayed overnight at the home of Harry Tutchton.

Any arrest he made was taken to Magistrate Gibson of Chase, Md. (father of Battalion Chief Walter Gibson of the Essex Fire Dept. recently deceased) or to the Canton Police Station. If anyone was sentenced to a longer term, he had to deliver them to the jail at Towson-town, as it was then called.

In 1903, he went to make an arrest of a woman who was having a problem over some property upon which a school was built. She asked if she might go to the stable to feed her horses before she left and my father agreed. On her return, she had taken a revolver from a market wagon and opened fire. Three bullets struck my father, but he managed to grasp her hand and the rest were fired in the air. One bullet landed in the shoulder pad of his coat, one near the collarbone and one near the hip. The one near the collarbone traveled down some, but it was removed and the other was still lodged in his hip

until he passed away. He did not fire back at her and still drove her to the street cars until someone else relieved him.

He and his first wife were married in the old Orem's Church. They had five children before she passed away. He remarried and had four more children. This wife also passed away. Later he married my mother who had ten children, she lived in Essex on Taylor Avenue for 37 years and was called Ma Wood by the old timers. Two of his second wife's children are still living and eight of my mother's.

There are 29 grandchildren living and 46 great-grandchildren. Two sons served in World War I and 8 grandsons in World War II, with one great-grandson now serving in the Marines.

In my father's earlier days, he wore the old Keystone Cop type uniform, but later wore plain clothes. He was 72 at the time of his death.

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60TH ANN

ESSEX — 19



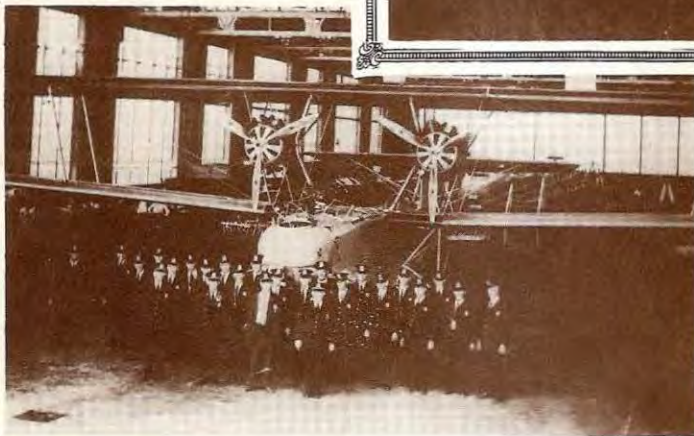
DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINAK

Above—Glenn L. Martin Middle River Plant under construction, May 1929. Right—Aerial view as completion nears, August 1929. Below—PM-1 Flying Boat at Martins 1930.



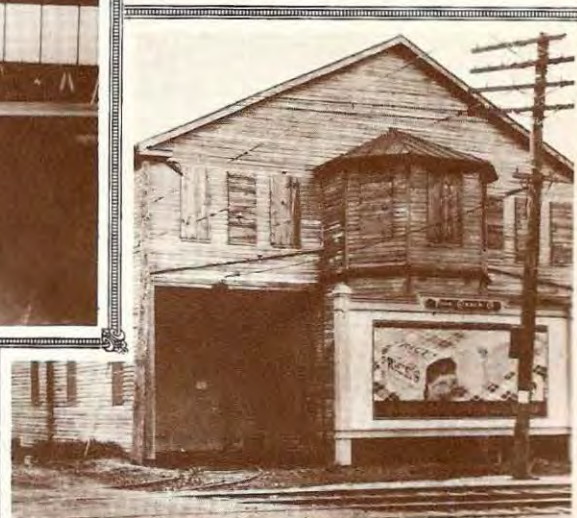
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It is with
The Heritage So
and Middle River
community in cel
60th Anniversary
all pause for a
flect the heritag
and look forward
and glorious futu



DONATED BY J. GUTTENBERGER

Right—Car barn at Eastern & Moffet Avenues—photo taken about 1930. Below—Stemmers Run County Unlimited League, 1934.



DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINAK



DONATED BY EVELYN KRS

Through these pages
our past, with personal
times as they happened
create the community as
great thought in mind th
but our heritage to tomor

ANNIVERSARY

1909-1969

great pride that
the Society of Essex
joins with the
celebration of its
anniversary. May we
for a moment to re-
vitalize of our past
ward to a greater
future.

PHOTO COURTESY MRS. JOHN G. MILKE



DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINAK



Above - "Cigar & News Stand" Eastern Ave. and Riverside Drive in 1923. Left - Josenhans corner in the year of 1925. Below - Vigilant Fire Truck at 518 Eastern Blvd. in 1914.



PHOTO COURTESY OTIS LANG

Left - Erected before the Revolutionary War at Mace and Franklin Avenues this surveyors stone of 'Hines Purchase' still stands. Below - First general store built in Essex, corner Mace and Eastern Aves. by Henry Guttenberger, 1910.

DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINAK



ages we find glimpses of
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d the present of today is
tomorrow.



PHOTO COURTESY DE ANGELUS STUDIO

60TH ANNIVERSARY

ESSEX—1909-1969



DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINEZ

Above—Glenn L. Martin Middle River Plant under construction, May 1929. Right—Aerial view as completion nears, August 1929. Below—PM-1 Flying Boat at Martins 1930.



DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINEZ

It is with great pride that The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River joins with the community in celebration of its 60th Anniversary. May we all pause for a moment to reflect the heritage of our past and look forward to a greater and glorious future.



DONATED BY A. CUTTENBERGER

Right—Car barn at Eastern & Maffet Avenues—photo taken about 1930. Below—Stemmers Run County Unlimited League, 1934.



DONATED BY CLYDE CHATFIELD



DONATED BY JULIAN KEE

Through these pages we find glimpses of our past, with personal recounting of the times as they happened in the struggle to create the community as it is today. Bearing great thought in mind the present of today is but our heritage to tomorrow.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONAS S. BRADY



DONATED BY GEORGE MARTINEZ

Above—"Cigar & News Stand" Eastern Ave. and Riverside Drive in 1925. Left—Josephson corner in the year of 1925. Below—Vigilant Fire Truck at 518 Eastern Blvd. in 1914.



DONATED BY JONAS BRADY



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEO LAND

Left—Erected before the Revolutionary War at Mace and Franklin Avenues this survivors stone of "Hines Purchase" still stands. Below—First general store built in Essex, corner Mace and Eastern Aves. by Henry Cuttenberger, 1910.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANASTAS STUNO



Our First Church—1867

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

from their Centennial Book 1867-1967

OUR PAST—Prior to the Civil War period, the present Middle River area was an industrial center, linked to the operation of the Locust Grove Iron Furnace, located on Race Road. Early records show that a Mr. Howard, part owner of the smelters, had a small church built on company property where employees and their families could worship as they chose.

Our records indicate that family meetings took place as early as 1865 between those who were to found our congregation. In October 1865, a constitution was adopted, establishing the "Free and Independent Evangelical Howard Congregation".

By-laws were adopted in late September 1866 and the name of the congregation was changed to "The United German Lutheran and Reformed Church". As the congregation blossomed, they sought a place of worship which could grow

with them. So it was that Elders Louis Freund and John Rosengarn, on December 19, 1866, secured a loan and purchased for \$800 the abandoned Howard's Church and the two acres of land on which it stood. The building was refitted for heating, and after other essential repairs, the first worship services were conducted on January 21, 1867.

Pastor William Zeiler was called in 1892 and brought to fruition several of the dreams of the original elders. During his ministry of twelve years, a Womens' Guild was organized (1892), and the original Howard's Church was razed to make room on the same site for the construction of a new church building. Six acres of land adjacent to the church site and cemetery was purchased. The new church was dedicated on October 25, 1896 as "Evangelical Zions Church", the name which still appears on the cornerstone.

Beginning in 1910, regular English services were conducted on Sunday afternoons in addition to the traditional worship in German. The Church School grew in size until a new church Hall was constructed in 1925. In October of 1923, the church was electrified, and the interior of the sanctuary was refurbished in 1925. The

Church was enlarged in 1927, and a new Bartholdy pipe organ was installed. On June 6, 1930, the name of the church was changed to "Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church".

In 1956 the Parish Hall was enlarged to house the growing Church School, which had expanded to include classes through Senior High age.

During the late 50's, dialogue was already in progress between the Evangelical & Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church, toward effecting a denominational union. With the finalization of this merger, the congregation became a member of the new denomination, The United Church of Christ.

By 1964 rebuilding of the church had been completed to include increased foundation to support brick outer walls. Repair and moderate redesign of the steeple facing materially add to the appearance of the building. New front and side steps and new doors provide added advantage in both design and safety. Comprehensive interior improvements also have been made throughout both the church and parish hall.

Our church building, though standing on the same site as did the tiny Howard's Church, is new in terms of its physical capabilities. Our congregation, though firmly rooted in the tradition of the Reformation, is growing and energetic. And so it must be as we approach the growing challenges of a community which still continues to change, even one-hundred years beyond the beginning of this story.

Our Church Today



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When Essex Was Young

by Joseph Oronson

I have many interesting and enjoyable memories of my childhood in Essex.

When my family moved to Upperlanding Avenue in 1914, Herb Brawner, who lived on Savannah Avenue, came to meet the family with the greeting "Hello, my name's Herb. What's yours?" Herb became my first boyfriend and later we were partners in selling peanuts and popcorn at Hollywood Park.

There were six children in my family and when the last was about to be born I, being the eldest, walked from Upperlanding Avenue to Dr. Mace's home on Ridge Road, approximately 3 miles. When I got there, the Doctor was out but Mrs. Mace asked me to wait. After the Doctor returned, he drove me home in his Stanley Steamer and, shortly thereafter, the baby was born. The Doctor's fee for delivery was \$10.00 and Mrs. Flaherty from Canton came and took care of my mother and the family for \$1.00 per day.

I remember one Halloween Move Day some friends and I took a new flag pole which hadn't as yet been put up and placed it across Eastern Avenue, stopping the horses and wagons. The next day, we were made to carry it back. Miss Gist, principal of Essex School, said "Joseph, go and get me 5 or 6 switches". I got the switches but was careful to knick them so they would break when we got our whippings. If I hadn't, the other boys would have beat me up on the way home.

During the winter, Back River would be frozen over from November to March. The children would skate to Back River Bridge, put a bed sheet behind them and the wind would blow them down to the bay and they would skate back. One of our favorite places for sledding was down Mace Avenue from Upperlanding Avenue to Eastern Avenue. Mr. Tutchton and Mr. Seawhite, owners of Paradise Farm and Seawhite's Farm, would take the kids for rides on sleds

pulled by horses.

During the summer, I would work on the farms. In 1918, when I was 13, I worked for Mr. Tutchton digging beets, picking tomatoes and string beans. My pay for picking the beans was 7c a bushel. One day, on my way home from school, Mr. Tutchton stopped me and told me to go into the field and get all the turnips and rutabagas I wanted because they wouldn't pay him anything at the market for them. So I went to my grandfather's, got feed bags and carried them home that way.

On the Seawhite Farm, I dug Sweet Potatoes and picked Apples for which I was paid one bushel of Sweet Potatoes and all the Apples I wanted. When the tomatoes were picked and loaded, I would go to market with Frank Seawhite. We usually stopped at Vandermast's to water the horses. Frank would get a beer, I got a soda and our sandwiches were free.

I attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and was confirmed in 1917. On Sundays, I would walk home with my grandfather. We would stop at Sauer's Store on the corner of Deep Creek Avenue (now Marlyn Avenue) and Eastern for a 3c ice cream cone.

I attended Essex School. Miss Bransard Gist came from Chase School in 1914 to teach at the old Essex School. In 1915, we moved to the portable school on Dorsey Avenue. My grandparents were the janitors and each room of the school had a coal fire. If anything went wrong with the fires, Miss Gist would say "Joseph, go and see if you can fix the fire". If it was bad, I would get my grandfather who lived on Woodward Drive.

When I was in the eighth grade, the class consisted of 7 girls and me. Miss Morgan, who taught the 3rd and 4th grades, became ill and Miss Gist said "Joseph, you go and teach Miss Morgan's class. I don't want to show any partiality among the girls." I taught for six weeks and when the first month was over, I got a check for \$40.00—20 days

substitute teacher's pay at \$2.00 per day. I went home and told my mother I was "a millionaire and a teacher!"

I graduated from the Essex portable school on Woodward Drive and Dorsey Avenue in 1919. Along with the 7 girls and 1 boy from the eighth grade, Nelson Guttermuth, a 7th grader, was allowed to graduate a year ahead because his family was moving to Belair Road. The graduation exercises were held in the Essex Methodist Church and as a graduation present, I received a watch from my grandmother which cost \$1.49—a large sum at that time.

After graduation, I went to work at O'Neill & Co. at the glove counter as a stockboy for \$7.00 for a 6-day week. On the first day it rained and the floorwalker gave me the job of checking umbrellas—all tips were mine. I made about \$4.00 that day and every evening I would ask the Good Lord to let it rain again.

During the time Herb Brawner and I sold peanuts and popcorn at Hollywood Park, we would ride the street car to Jeppi Bros. on Sharp Street and purchase 90 lb. bags of peanuts for 90c. The conductor would let us ride on the back platform on the way back. We would pack the peanuts at Bob Monday's—across from Hollywood Park—and there was more in our 5c bags than you get in a 39c bag today. We made a profit of \$25.00 to \$30.00 a week selling peanuts, popcorn and honey molasses taffy. When the business became too big, we had to hire boys for 20c on the dollar.

When I was 30, I married Edith Porter whose father, William Porter, was a carpenter in Middle River. Grandpop Porter owned Rocky Point Farm. William King ran a jitney bus to Rocky Point for 5c, where the people could go swimming for free. I'll always remember the watermelon parties we had at Rocky Point.

Yes, I do have many interesting and enjoyable memories of when Essex and I grew up.



ROBERT PURVIANCE JR.

A Name to Remember

IN OUR SEARCH of old maps and deeds, one name has kept repeating itself, not only in this section but also in Baltimore. The name is Robert Purviance, Jr., pronounced Purr-vi'-ence.

We first came across this name on an 1850 Geological Survey Map which indicated Robert Purviance, Jr. had a residence on Cedar Point in the Back River Neck section. He also owned property, according to this map, in the vicinity of the old Post Office on Orem's Road and also on the other side of Back River, approximately where Stansbury Manor is now located.

In tracing the name, we found the Purviances were Huguenots who fled France after the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Some of the family fled to Donegal, Ireland. In 1733, a Robert Purviance was born in Castle Finn, Donegal. He married Frances Young in 1754 and came to America, settling first in New Jersey. Robert came to Maryland in 1756, where he opened a commercial house jointly with his brother Samuel. The brothers became wealthy business men and bankers. They were active in both religion and politics. Samuel was Chairman of the Whig Party, Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, Chairman of the Committee of Safety and Trustee of the County Almshouse. During the

War of the Revolution, they were among the biggest outfitters and suppliers of LaFayette's bedraggled army when it passed through Baltimore. They contributed 10,000 pounds (stirling) to purchase salt to prevent it from falling into the hands of monopolists, thereby preventing speculation which would have imposed on the people and the infant government. After the war, Robert was named First Naval Officer of the Port of Baltimore by George Washington and was later appointed Collector for the State.

In 1763, Robert was a member of the committee which started the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore and was one of the ruling elders. The first meetinghouse was a log building located on Fayette & Gay Streets. Later a church was built on Fayette & North Streets. They also contributed money to the First Presbyterian Cemetery located on Fayette and Green Streets. The Purviance lot and tombstone are located just inside the gate, on the left side, directly opposite that of Edgar Allan Poe. Robert, along with other members of his family, is buried there. Unfortunately, Samuel was captured by Indians in 1788 while in Ohio. Since he was never heard of again, it is presumed the Indians killed him.

Robert was the father of eleven

children, among whom was James, a hero of the War of 1812 and the father of Commodore Hugh Young Purviance who was, himself, a hero of the Civil War.

Robert's daughter, Jane, married David Stewart and was the mother of Senator David Stewart and the grandmother of Charles Morton Stewart.

John was, perhaps, the best-known of Robert's children. He was a lawyer and later a Judge. Judge John Purviance, who was called "the honest lawyer" had three children: Margaret S.; George D. who was a minister of the Fourth Presbyterian Church; and Robert, Jr. who, like his father, was a lawyer. It is this Robert, Jr. in whom we are most interested.

Robert Purviance, Jr., known as "the Younger, the Bachelor", began purchasing ground during the 1830's and 1840's in the sections now known as Essex and Back River Neck. Some of the sections he purchased, and of which we have photostatic copies of the deeds, were: Hazard, Hindsey's (or Hines') Purchase, Paradise, Stansburys Claim, Stansburys Inheritance, Balston (originally Ballestones) and Biddison's Neck (or Biddersons Neck). The first three, i.e., Hazard, Hindsey's Purchase and Paradise, are what we know as Essex. The others are located in the Back River Neck section. His reasons for acquiring this property are, at present, unknown to us, as are his reasons for selling. And sell he did. According to an 1877 Survey Map, Robert Purviance, Jr. no longer owned any ground in this section, nor did any heirs he might have had.

Commodore Hugh Young Purviance was the last living male and the family name ceased when he died in 1882. However, some descendants, through the female side of the family, are still living in Maryland.

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SHORT HISTORY OF OREMS METHODIST CHURCH

*Taken from
"Consecration Book of
Orems Church"*

AFTER THE settlement of Jamestown in 1606 and that of Maryland in 1634 at St. Mary's, where the Potomac meets the Chesapeake Bay, the only means of transportation was by water. Therefore, Captain John Smith explored the tributaries of the Chesapeake, as did the settlers who came over with Lord Baltimore. As the river, which we now call Middle River, was one of the tributaries of the Chesapeake, it was natural that small settlements sprang up on its banks.

It was to the settlers of these communities that Francis Asbury was appointed by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, in 1771.

Later, Francis Asbury became the first Methodist Bishop in America, and in his Journal, or Diary, we find that he counted some of the residents of this community among his most particular friends.

In 1794, this Middle River Chapel was called Oroms Church after a trustee whose name was Oroms. Tradition has it that the deed to this Middle River Chapel was made out to John Wesley from Lord Baltimore, and this deed was really in existence.

In 1859 the present church was started, but the deed to this property was not made until July 17, 1860, when Mr. Samuel Wilkerson (Wilkerson) and wife deeded a plot of ground to the appointed trustee of Orems Church.



Orems Methodist Church - 1859-1958

The Steward's Book for the Baltimore Circuit from 1794 to 1838 lists appointments given at the Quarterly Conference, September 20, 1794 and we found in the 28 appointments that Orems had paid money in pounds and shillings. Orems was represented at every quarterly meeting of the Baltimore Circuit until 1806 when it became a part of the Great Falls Circuit. In 1914 or 1915, Great Falls Circuit was subdivided and Orems became a part of the Chase Circuit.

When we were part of Great Falls Circuit, our parsonage was at Hiss Church in Parkville. After we became a part of the Chase Circuit, the parsonage was in Chase, Md. This parsonage burned and for some time a parsonage was rented for the minister. In 1937 and 1938, we helped in building the new parsonage for Chase Circuit on Ebenezer Road. In 1940, when Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Co. began to expand for wartime production and built homes for its workers, the congregation under Rev. Charles

Suback, decided to withdraw from the Chase Circuit and become a new station.

Mrs. Joseph H. Jenkins graciously offered 2113 Orems Road for a parsonage in memory of her husband. An appropriate marker was placed in the study. Ground was broken on June 30, 1940 with a religious ceremony, and in the fall, Rev. Suback and his family moved in. In June 1941, Rev. Charles Suback was made Orems first Pastor, full time. In June 1942, Rev. Muller became Pastor of Orems. It was under his leadership the new church was built in 1949.

It was difficult to collect enough money for a new church from all these new people who were entering and leaving the community in a rapid turnover of population. However, with donations from several sources, a mortgage on very liberal terms from the Board of Church Extension, and contributions from the congregation, a plan was developed and worked out whereby the present church was built as it now stands.

The future of Orems Methodist Church should be excellent. We wish we could see what it will be, but we all desire that our church will always be a House of Prayers for all people. For it is on this principle that the new Orems Church was built. Those who, in 1949, made this church possible, are happy to have had a part in the building of the Kingdom, a building that shall go far into the future to the glory of God and the blessing of man.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The congregation was organized on May 21st., 1913, by the late Rev. C. F. W. Hartlage. Three lots were given to the congregation on condition that a church building be erected within a year. On Sept. 28th, at 4 P.M., the cornerstone for the church was laid by Rev. Hartlage. Rev. F. Mueller preached the sermon. The church was dedicated on May 4th, 1914. Rev. Snapp and Rev. F. Mueller spoke on this occasion.

An addition was built to the basement of the church in 1927.

Pastor Tecklenberg was installed June 30, 1929.

The parsonage was erected in 1930 at a cost of \$6,000.00.

The congregation received financial aid from the American Lutheran Church until the year 1934, when it resolved to become independent and self-supporting.

The parish hall was erected in the year 1937 at a cost of \$14,547.00.

All indebtedness on parsonage and parish hall was paid the year 1943.

Immediately the congregation made plans to gather funds for the erection of a new church. A building committee was appointed and the firm of Zink and Moehle, architects, was engaged to submit plans for a new church.

On June 28th, 1949, ground was broken, and the work of building the new church was begun, the contract for same having been previously awarded to the Lawrence Construction Co. By a strange coincidence, this happened to be the 20th anniversary of the installation of Pastor Tecklenberg in St. Johns.

On September 11th, the cornerstone was laid with pastor A. R. Horn preaching the sermon.

On March 26th, 1950, the completed church was dedicated to the glory of God.

The Sunday school was organized Feb. 2nd, 1913, at 9:30 A.M., at the home of Mr. John Schuster on Dorsey and Taylor Avenues. The first officers were: Mr. Herman Storath, Supt.; Mr. John Hughes, Sec., and Treas.; Miss Rhoda Wortman, Librarian and Mrs. John Schuster, organist. The attendance at the first session numbered 16, with an offering of 75c. By permission of the school authorities, the Sunday school met in the old school building on Eastern and Taylor Avenues until the church was completed in 1914. By 1937, it had grown to such an extent that the little church was no longer able to house them; this necessitated the erection of the parish hall. The present enrollment is 560.



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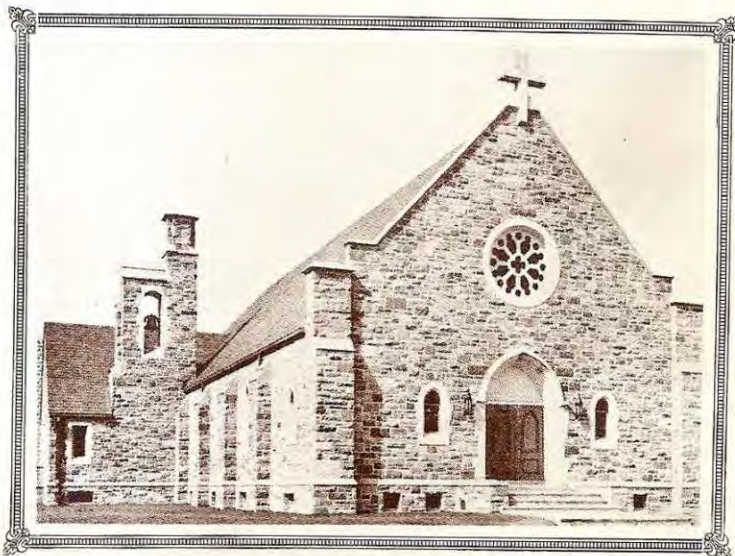
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Paradise Farm

by Lottie Tutchton Wood

THE PARADISE FARM was rented by James C. Tutchton and his wife, Sarah, about 1860-61 from Jacob Taylor, the owner. James and Sarah Tutchton had three children, Harry F. who married Jane G. Stevenson; Mary E. who married Christian Lawrence and Effie who married George Johnson.

Harry and Jane were married in 1887 and continued to live on the farm with the parents. The twelve children born to them between 1889 and 1913 were: Effie, Lottie, Harry, Iva, James, Nathan, William, J. Charles, Lillian, John, Marion and Helen.

About 1910, the Taylor Land Co. started to develop Essex. The Paradise Farms location was Mace Avenue; Stemmers Run Road on the North and from Beck Street to the waterfront.

There was some timber on the property and the Taylor Land Co. had a sawmill located at Eastern and Taylor Avenues. The timber was cut and sawed into lumber at the sawmill and used in the framework of some of the homes they were building.

In the years 1911-12, the Taylor Land Co. donated lots for the Essex Methodist Church, then at Eastern and Taylor Avenues; St. Johns Lutheran Church—George St. and

PICTURE COURTESY OF LOTTIE TUTCHTON WOOD



PARADISE FARM HOUSE

Franklin Avenue; The Volunteer Fire Dept.—500 block Eastern Avenue and the portable schools on Dorsey Avenue.

The Tutchton family continued to live on part of the farm until the death of Harry F. Tutchton in 1918. The rest of the family was no longer interested in farming.

Several of the avenues in Essex were named for the Taylor family—Taylor Avenue; Franklin Avenue; Charles Street and Margaret Avenue.

Transportation was by street car from Middle River to Holliday and Baltimore Streets for 15c: ie, 5c from Middle River to Back River; 5c from Back River to Lombard and Haven Streets and 5c from Lombard to Holliday and Baltimore Streets.



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OLD "RECEIPTS"

FRIED CRULLERS

Mix together 2 pounds flour and 1½ tablespoons baking powder. Dissolve 6 oz. sugar in a half pint of milk, add 4 eggs, 4 oz. melted butter, salt and nutmeg.

Pour the liquid mixture into the center of the flour and mix together. Roll dough and cut with a double cutter—fry right away and sugar when done.

COFFEE

A heaped cup of ground coffee makes 2 quarts.

CUCUMBER SALAD

Slice cucumbers and onions thinly cover with vinegar and add salt and pepper to taste.

VIENNA ROLLS

Dissolve 1 oz. yeast in 1 quart lukewarm milk—add 4 lbs. flour—mix and let set 3 hours.

Then add 1 oz. salt and 1 tablespoon sugar with enough extra flour to make a stiff dough—let rise for 4 hours.

Work dough by pressing flat and folding over. Roll dough thin, cut in 4 inch widths and then in triangles. Starting with broad end, roll up to the point. Place on flat sheet, brush with water and let rise for about ½ hour—bake about 10 minutes.

CORNING BRINE

Dissolve 3½ oz. saltpetre in 3 gals. water on stove—stir in ½ pint molasses or sugar and 5 pounds salt. Bring to a boil and skim. Put in at least 2 kegs. (Brine will keep about 2 months in cool weather.)

Keep beef in 1st keg until half-corned then transfer it to the other keg. Make sure beef is kept under brine by placing a stone on the lid to weight it down.

Beef must be corned at least a week before using it.

GRAPE ICE

Mash 1 cup Concord Grapes with 1 lb. sugar, add 1 qt. water and the juice of 1 lemon—strain and freeze.

STRAWBERRY ICE

Cover 2 quarts ripe strawberries with 2 lbs. sugar until a thick red syrup is formed—strain and add 3 pints water—stir and freeze.

SUGAR COOKIES

Cream together 1 lb. sugar and 1 lb. butter, add 1 dozen eggs, 1 tablespoon baking powder, and flavor of your choice.

Then add enough flour to make a soft dough (about 3 to 3½ pounds)—let stand 10 minutes.

Roll out dough on floured table, brush with egg and sprinkle with sugar or chopped almonds.

Bake until a light brown.

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OLD "RECEIPTS"

CARROT WINE

Take ¼ peck carrots, scrape and cut up fine. Cook until tender. Let stand overnight—squeeze out juice, add 3 lbs. brown sugar, 2 slices toasted rye bread, 1 cake of yeast. Let stand for 2 weeks, strain and let stand for 2 more weeks, then bottle.

PEACH BRANDY

Real peach brandy is distilled from the juice of the fruit. Take 1 lb. peaches, 2 lbs. sugar, 1 gal. water, 1½ cakes yeast. Allow to stand for 2 weeks, strain and add ¼ cake yeast. Let stand for 8 more days and strain before using.

DANDELION WINE

Pour 4 qts. boiling water over 3 qts. dandelions (yellows only). Let stand overnight, strain and add 4 lbs. sugar, ¼ cake yeast, 2 oranges and 1 lemon (cut in pieces). Put all in a crock and let ferment 9 to 12 days. Strain and put in clean jugs.

GRAPE WINE

Take 2 baskets of grapes, pick, wash and mash them. Pour 2 gal. boiling water over the grapes and let stand for 4 or 5 days, stirring once each day. Strain and add 4 lbs. sugar for each gallon of juice. Place in a barrel or jugs until it is done working. Strain and bottle.

BEET WINE

Cut tops off 15 large beets, scrub them with a brush and cover them with 5 qts. water, bring to boil and let cook down to 4 qts. Remove beets, strain and add 3 lbs. sugar, boil for 20 minutes longer and then let cool. When cold, return the beets to the water. Place 1 slice stale bread spread with ½ cake yeast in a crock, pour beet water over and let stand for 3 days. Strain and return to crock for 3 more days. Strain, put in bottles and leave corks loose.

SHERRY WINE

Bring 1 gal. water to a boil, let cool and add 2½ lbs. sugar. Stir until dissolved and add 1 lb. yellow corn meal, 1 pint blue label corn syrup, 1 lb. seeded raisins, and 1 cake yeast (dissolved in a little warm water). Place in crock, cover with a cloth, stir from bottom twice a week. Let stand 3 weeks, then strain, bottle and color with caramel.

HOMINY WINE

Combine 2 lbs. hominy, 1 lb. raisins, 4 lbs. sugar, 4 lemons and 4 oranges (cut up), 1 gal. and 1 qt. water and 1 qt. boiling water. Let set for 16 days, strain and bottle.

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QUILTING

Mrs. Virginia Borsos holds quilt made by her mother, Mrs. Anna Mary Walter, in 1930-1, for the benefit of the Football Team. The citizens of Essex purchased space in the stars for their names to be embroidered. The center design is a football in which all the players names are embroidered. After the quilt was completed, it was raffled off and won by Al Edwards who recently gave it back to Mrs. Borsos.

The Heritage Society is in the process of making a similar quilt which, when completed, will be prominently displayed. The cost to have names embroidered is 25c per name.

For more information concerning the Quilt please write Mrs. Virginia Borsos. Chairman—Quilting—302 Lorraine Ave., Essex, Md. 21221.

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FIERCE INDIANS ONCE RULED ESSEX-MIDDLE RIVER AREA

BY CHARLES JONES

Much is heard of the Indians of the Wild West, but little has been written about the Indians of the East Coast, particularly the Essex-Middle River area. Nevertheless, we have to take a back seat to no one in that respect, for the Essex-Middle River area was once ruled by a fierce tribe of Indians, the Susquehannoughs.

When Captain John Smith, famed explorer and founder of the colony of Jamestown, sailed the Chesapeake Bay in 1608 including Back and Middle Rivers—or as he called them “Smals Poynt” and “Willow-byes” rivers—he was much impressed by the savages he encountered.

Capt. Smith described them as “Such greate and well proportioned men as are seldome seene, for they seemed like giants to the English, yea, and unto their neighbours.” The explorer went on to say that they were “The strangest people of all those countries” and to describe them as being of a simple and confiding temper and saying they could scarcely be restrained from prostrating themselves in adoration of the white strangers.

The Susquehannoughs could muster 700 frightening men, and according to Capt. Smith, they were one of the fiercest and most warlike nations on the Atlantic coast and kept all the tribes within their reach in a state of almost continual alarm. Their villages were pallisaded to resist the incursions of their most bitter and determined enemies, the Iroquois or Massawomekes.

Smith says that when a hostile expedition had been decided on by the chief and the leading warriors, it was made known to the tribe, who celebrated by a solemn dance in which the warriors, decked with paint and feathers, chanted their past or prospective exploits and imitated in pantomime the killing of their foes.

When they set out on their expedition, they marched by night in single file, slipping from shadow to shadow and scarcely breaking a twig. Then they burst upon the villages of their foes with war-whoops.

Those who survived their slaughter were taken as prisoners and reserved for death by slow tortures. And, according to Capt. Smith, they were past masters at the art.

But disease—some think to have been Smallpox—finally did to the Susquehannoughs what their enemies could not do—practically wiped them out. By 1763—more than 150 years since Capt. Smith had first discovered them—there were only 20 members of the tribe left and they lived in a few squalid cabins in the region around the Maryland Pennsylvania border and made their living by begging and the sale of baskets and homemade brooms.

About that time, an Indian war with another tribe was in progress and some people suspected the remaining Susquehannoughs of being in league with the warring redskins. A gang attacked their village and killed 6 of them. The 14 survivors were taken to Lancaster, Penna, by the sherrif and shut up in the jail yard for protection. But they were followed by the gang of settlers who broke into the jail and murdered every last one of them.

Thus ended the saga of the Susquehannoughs, a group of red-skinned toughs who would have made the Apaches or the Comanches look like pikers.

And remember, the Susquehannoughs traveled by foot. Just imagine what might have happened if they had gotten their hands on some horses. And had disease not wiped them out, we might have teepees up and down Eastern Blvd. right now.



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First Church of God

BY GUY REYNOLDS

ESSEX, MD.

THE CHURCH OF GOD in Essex is one of the branches that was established by former worshippers of the Baltimore Church of God. Several of these former worshippers had moved to Essex and there was a desire to start a work in the community.

Those who, at this time, resided in Essex were Brother and Sister Ester, Brother and Sister Lewis, Brother and Sister Bacon, Brother and Sister Sturtz and Sister Reynolds.

In 1930, Gospel Tent meetings were held at the corner of Virginia and Taylor Avenue in Essex. After the tent meetings, the work in Essex was on its own. Not having any building to worship in, a Sunday School was started in Mrs. Horn's home under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Hass of Baltimore, on February 17, 1931. The name "The Church of God Community Sunday School" was adopted.

On April 21, 1931, Mr. Norman J. Hass, chairman of the Trustee Board, deposited \$25.00 down on the property upon which the church and the parsonage are now situated.

The foundation for the building was poured on June 14, 1931. The building was erected by brethren from Baltimore and Essex.

On March 14, 1933, the first full time pastor was called to oversee the progress of the work. He was Brother Walter L. Ott, who, with his wife, took over the pastorate under the general supervision of Brother E. E. Shaw, pastor of the Church of God in Baltimore.

The work continued to grow and Brother Ott stayed with the congregation until his resignation eleven years later on March 31, 1944.

For a few months, the work, without a pastor, faced many tests and trials. But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory . . .

On August 23, 1944, a business meeting was called and the congregation adopted the First Constitution



First Church of God—Baltimore

and By-Laws for the incorporation of the Essex Church under the laws of the State of Maryland and the name of the Church was changed from 'The Church of God Community Sunday School' to the 'First Church of God of Essex'.

On September 28, 1944, the congregation at Essex voted to call Brother Harold Barber, then pastoring at Roanoke, Virginia, to take over the Pastorate here at Essex, Md. Brother Barber accepted the call to the Essex Church and, with his wife and daughter and son, took over his duties on October 29, 1944. An All Day Unity Meeting held at Ilda, Virginia took place on Thanksgiving Day of 1944. This was the beginning of some of the most thrilling and blessed meetings that many in the Essex Congregation had ever had opportunity in which to be. Thus, every holiday for the next five years or so was to see the Saints gather together at either Manassas, Fredericksburg, Ilda or Waynesboro in Virginia or at Montrose, Hagerstown, Edgemere or Essex in Maryland. The first All Day Unity Meeting held at Essex was on February 22, 1945.

After nearly nineteen years, Brother Harold Barber resigned the Pastorate of the Essex Church in September 1963 and left for Tampa, Florida. During his years of pastoring the Essex Church, the congregation contributed many thousands of dollars to the Missionary work in Cuba and in Africa.

April 12, 1964, Raymond C. Davis of Iaeger, West Virginia, held a week's meeting at Essex. As a result of this meeting, the congregation called him as their third pastor and he moved to Essex, bringing his first sermon as pastor on May 17, which was Mother's Day of 1964.

First Church
of God—
Essex 1968



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Rocco Persia opened his first shoe repair shop in 1920 on the lot at the rear of Margaret and Maryland Avenues. The house at 13 Margaret Avenue was built in 1922, and the shop was then located in the front of the house.

The house at 517 Eastern Blvd. was built in 1928 and the shop was built on the side of the house with the entrance on Margaret Avenue.

The shoe repair shop was closed and the store was reopened as a package goods store in June 1945 by Elmer and Anna (Persia) Betkey.

Another daughter of Rocco Persia, Frances Button Marek, was employed in 1926 by Miss Anna Musgrove who was the Land Agent for the Essex Land Co. In 1931, Mrs. Marek was Assistant Postmaster under Mr. Joseph Banz.

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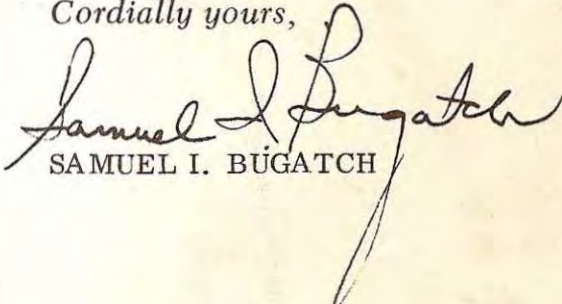
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*Our store founded in 1914 by my father
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